## Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EC, US, EFIS
SUBJECT: SIGNATURE OF US-EC GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY
AGREEMENT (GIFA)

1. THE EC COUNCIL (AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS) ON FEBRUARY 14 DID NOT RPT NOT APPROVE THE US-EC GIFA BUT CONFERRED FULL POWERS FOR LORD BRIDGES, COMMERCIAL MINISTER OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, (ON BEHALF OF THE EC COUNCIL) AND JEAN PIERRE LENG, COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS COUNSELOR OF THE EC WASHINGTON DELEGATION, (ON BEHALF OF THE EC COMMISSION) TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON. THE MISSION HAS RECEIVED AND EXAMINED THE ORIGINAL OF THE FULL POWERS DOCUMENT SIGNED BY JOHN SILKIN, UK MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND IS SATISFIED THAT IT GIVES BRIDGES AND LENG FULL AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. THE DOCUMENT IN THE SIX COMMUNITY LANGUAGES STATES THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE EC COUNCIL "HAS DECIDED BY THESE PRESENTS TO CONFER FULL POWERS" ON BRIDGES AND LENG. QUOTE: TO SIGN, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE EUROPEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC COMMUNITY CONCERNING FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE COUNCIL, UPON COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROVE AND CONCLUDE THE INSTRUMENTS SIGNED BY ITS PLENIPOTENTIARIES IN PURSUANCE OF THE FULL POWERS CONFERRED BY

THESE PRESENT. END QUOTE. THE ORIGINAL OF THE FULL POWERS WILL BE POUCHED ATTENTION L/T IF COUNCILS APPROVES GIFA.

- 2. MICHAEL HARDY, EC COMMISSION LEGAL COUNSEL, HAS ADVISED THAT AT ITS FEBRUARY 11 MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF FRANCE, COREPER AGREED TO INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION AT THE TIME OF SIGNATURE IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING UNILATERAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY: QUOTE: THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO STATE ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAY IN WHICH PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE XII OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE APPLIED. THAT UNDERSTANDING IS AS FOLLOWS: THAT IN THE EVENT THAT A DISPUTE CONCERNING THE INTERPRETATION OR APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT WERE TO ARISE, THE PARTIES ARE REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE CONSULTATION WITH RESPECT TO THE DISPUTE, WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A SOLUTION WITHOUT DELAY. END QUOTE.
- 3. HARDY STATED THAT HE ARGUED AT THE COREPER MEETING THAT THIS STATEMENT DID NOT ADD ANYTHING TO THE ACTUAL TEXT OF ARTICLE XII BUT THE FRENCH INSISTED THAT IT WOULD ASSIST THEM IN JUSTIFYING CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION. HARDY EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE AN AGREED MINUTE BUT WOULD MERELY BE A STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE WHICH REQUIRED NEITHER AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT NOR A REPLY FROM THE U.S. SIDE.
- 4. EC HOPES THAT COUNCIL WILL APPROVE GIFA FEBRUARY 15 THEREBY PERMITTING SIGNATURE SAME DAY WASHINGTON TIME, BUT IS NOT CERTAIN. HINTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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